

## Guardian Angels School Mass

### Recommended Safety Guidelines

Much discussion, consultation, and hard work has gone into creating the safest environment for our students to return to school Masses. Special thanks to Fr. King, Mrs. Froehlich, Mr. Stoops, Mr. Stegeman, and Mr. Barnes for their input and perseverance. School Masses will resume Friday, Oct. 2 with the celebration of the Feast of the Guardian Angels with our 1<sup>st</sup> graders and new students only. Parents of these students may attend—an RSVP will be sent out shortly. The Feast of the Guardian Angels Mass will be streamed to the rest of our students in their classrooms on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Why should we go to Mass?** Because we have such a large church (1,234 is our capacity), we are fortunate to provide our students with the opportunity to attend Mass and other liturgies weekly, while maintaining the recommended distancing between students. When we attend Mass together, we are no longer just individuals but members of Christ's body. At Mass we deepen our communion not only with Christ but with the whole Church, including the saints and our beloved deceased. It is a blessing not only to ourselves but to others that we can worship together and receive Jesus sacramentally.

### **What steps are being taken to ensure my child's safety while they attend Mass?**

There will be 3 weekday Masses (other than occasions such as feast days, Holy days and other liturgies)

Weekly Masses	Grades attending	# of students
Tuesday	K-2	96
Wednesday	6-8	164
Thursday	3-5	141

- Students will be socially distanced throughout the entire church. Grade levels are isolated to their typical cohort inside the church with separation of at least one pew between cohorts: primary by classrooms, 5-8 by grade level.

- Students are all 6' apart: rotation of 2 to 4 per pew depending on location in church.
- Hand sanitizer stations available at every entrance.
- All students/staff will wear masks.
- Lay Eucharistic ministers will sanitize hands before and after they distribute Holy Communion and wear masks.
- Students have been taught to:
  - wear masks as they approach the altar/EM
  - take down mask as they get to the altar/EM
  - put mask on after they consume the precious sacrament
- Students selected from one homeroom only who are participating as lectors or gift bearers will be seated in the tabernacle section.
- The receptacles containing the bread and wine to be consecrated during the Mass will have lids.
- Mr. Stegeman and Mr. Barnes will sing on the congregation's behalf; students and adults will not be singing.
- There will be no sign of peace, reception of Communion on the tongue and no reception of the Precious Blood.

**Can the whole school fit in Church at one time?** "All school Masses" are not able to be celebrated with our entire student body due to social distancing requirements. Only a portion of the student body will attend physically in the Church while the others will watch it live streamed from their classroom. Eucharist will not be "delivered" to those watching in order to preserve the sanctity of Jesus' body ("Other than as Viaticum to the critically ill, Holy Communion should, whenever possible, be given in the context of Mass. If however this is not possible, Holy Communion may be given outside of Mass, according to the approved rites." [www.catholiccincinnati.org](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org)) Students will pray the Act of Spiritual Communion during this time.

Thank you for your cooperation, your prayers and the blessings of your children!